(iii) Medium range rainfall predictions (3-7 days) are generated for the whole country and based on which Agro-Advisory Service (AAS) covering 127 agro-climatic/zones (cluster of 4-6 districts) is operated twice weekly (Tuesdays and Fridays) with valid predictions for next 4-days. Average skill of rainfall predictions was found to be 62% during 2006. 63% during 2007 and 62% during 2008.

(b) Continuous improvement of weather forecasting services is the high priority activity for the agencies of the Ministry of Earth Sciences by continuously adopting methodologies and modeling frameworks that have undergone rigorous performance evaluation in operational R&D environment. Following are some the steps that are undertaken/underway:—

(i) An improved numerical prediction models with 50Km grid globally and 27Km over India are already implemented.

(ii) All available global satellite radiance data sets are being assimilated in the numerical models for improving the forecasts.

(iii) A multi-model Man-Machine-Mix approach using the forecasts from different models has been adopted for improving the forecast skill on experimental basis.

(iv) Focusing on strengthening the existing observational network with expansion, improving the forecasting methodology and quick dissemination of weather forecast assessments/warnings to the users, a comprehensive modernization programme is currently underway.

(v) Focused R&D initiatives on understanding and prediction of the Indian monsoon rainfall variability, increasing accuracies of medium nine weather predictions and potential predictability of monsoon are currently under implementation during the Eleventh Plan.

Delay in monsoon

86. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state how widespread is the delay in monsoon this year and what impact has it had on sowing operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Southwest Monsoon-2009 has set in over Andaman Sea around its normal date on 20th May, 2009 but it advanced over Kerala earlier than its normal date (1st June) by about 8-days on 23rd May, 2009. Further advancement of Monsoon-2009 over parts of Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, West Bengal and Northeastern States was realized by the 1st week of June. Subsequently, the monsoon advancement over other parts of the country was sluggish as monsoon entered into a weak phase of its activity. Details of delay in monsoon advancement so far realized are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Sub-Division	Normal date of Monsoon onset	Actual date of Monsoon onset during 2009 so far	No. of days of delay
1.	Konkan and Goa	11th June	21st June	11
2.	Telangana	12th June	21st June	10
3.	Madhya Maharashtra	13th June	21st June	9
4.	Marathawada	13th June	26th June	14
5.	Vidarbha	14th June	26th June	13
6.	Orissa	14th June	26th June	13
7.	Jharkhand	16th June	29th June	14
8.	Bihar	16th June	29th June	14
9.	Chhattisgarh	17th June	26th June	10
10.	East Madhya Pradesh	20th June	29th June	10
11.	Gujarat Region	21st June	24th June	4
12.	East Uttar Pradesh	22nd June	29th June	8
13.	Saurashtra, Kutch and Diu	22nd June	24th June	3
14.	Uttarakhand	26th June	29th June	3

On the whole, a day of Monsoon-2009 advancement so far is found to be 1-2 weeks delayed from the respective normal date of onset in various parts of the country. It is believed that the realized delay of 1-2 weeks of monsoon onset does not have appreciable impact on the sowing operations in various parts of the country

Funds for welfare of SC people

87. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the total amount released by the Central Government for development of Scheduled Caste people in Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Kerala from 2000 to 2009 and total percentage of utilization from 2000 to 2009, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Proposals of Andhra Pradesh

88. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: